

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8692
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2184

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH PDEV UK US
SUBJ: RHODESIA: CONVERSATIONS IN DAR ES SALAAM

1. GRAHAM AND I WITH AMBASSADOR
SPAIN AND HIGH COMMISSIONER MOON MET FIRST WITH COLONEL MBITA,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND THEN
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA TO BRIEF THEM ON THE PROGRESS OF
OUR MISSION.

2. WE BRIEFED COLONEL MBITA ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE DAR
CONFERENCE AND EXPLAINED THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT GROUP INTENDED TO PROCEED TO AN ELECTION AND
INSTALLATION OF A GOVERNMENT BASED ON IT. IF THAT HAPPENED,
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WE SAID, WE FEARED THAT THE WAR WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO AN
END. THE BEST WAY OUT WAS AN ALL PARTIES MEETING WHICH SUCCEEDED.
THIS WOULD NEED TO BE PREPARED PROPERLY. WE NOTED THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT'S RELUCTANCE TO BECOME ENGAGED IN PREPARATORY TALKS AND
THE INTERNAL GROUP'S OPPOSITION TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE WHICH
HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED AND MIGHT NOT SUCCEED. WE EXPLAINED THAT
ACTIONS OF THE FRONTLINE, AND PARTICULARLY THE OAU DURING THE

FORTHCOMING MONTHS COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON WHETHER OR NOT WE SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE PARTIES TOGETHER. IF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS FELT THAT THEY WOULD NOT GET FAIR TREATMENT BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO RELY ON THE RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCES TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS AND WAR WOULD BE MORE LIKELY. WE THEREFORE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD BE KEPT IN MIND AS THEY PROCEEDED TO THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE OAU SUMMIT. THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS HAD A LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO FAIR TREATMENT IN AN ELECTION. IF THIS POINT WERE LOST SIGHT OF BY THE OAU IT WOULD CLEARLY AFFECT THE CHANCES OF GETTING AN ALL PARTIES MEETING.

3. MBITA SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THE POINT WE WERE MAKING. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE OAU WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON THE MATTER. IT WOULD CERTAINLY CONDEMN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND PERHAPS THOSE WHO WERE COLLABORATING WITH IT BUT THE PF SUPPORTED THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND THE OAU WOULD CERTAINLY KEEP THIS IN MIND. WE TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIM THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND THE PF ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL BUT WE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME ANY STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR IT.

4. THE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA WENT OVER MUCH THE SAME GROUND ALTHOUGH WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD A MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES. MKAPA WAS INCLINED TO SUPPORT THE PF'S INSISTENCE ON A COMMITMENT TO A CONFERENCE BEFORE
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AGREEING TO ENTER INTO PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS (WE DID NOT GO BEYOND SUGGESTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING THE CONFERENCE BEFORE IT WAS HELD).

5. WE RECALLED TO MKAPA PRESIDENT NYERERE'S STATEMENT TO US IN APRIL THAT MUZOREWA WAS STILL SAVABLE, IN STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ACTIONS WHICH WOULD FORCE MUZOREWA TO FALL BACK ON THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES. THOUGH WE BELIEVE HE UNDERSTOOD THE POINT HE NEVERTHELESS POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE'S STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE THREE MONTHS PREVIOUSLY AND THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED SINCE. IN DISCUSSING THE AAP WE POINTED OUT THAT THOUGH CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AT DAR, THERE WAS STILL SOME DISTANCE TO GO BETWEEN THE POSITION BEING ADVANCED BY THE PF AND SOMETHING WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO US. MKAPA EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE PF WAS STILL TAKING A BARGAINING POSITION BUT WE NOTED THAT IF TOO MUCH TIME WENT BY AND THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT FALTERED, THE PF BARGAINING POSITION COULD HARDEN MAKING AGREEMENT IMPOSSIBLE AND WAR MORE LIKELY. THE INTERNAL PEOPLE WOULD FALL BACK ON THE RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCES RATHER THAN BARGAIN FROM WEAKNESS WITH AN INTRANSIGENT PF.

6. FOR MAPUTO: PLEASE TELL ME WHOM I OWN AND HOW MUCH IN
REIMBURSEMENT FOR 1,000 ESCUDO NOTE GIVEN ME FOR PAYMENT OF
MY HOTEL BILL IN MAPUTO.
LOW

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NNN

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